

I am a customer of a smaller ISP in California named Sonic.net and I am deeply opposed to this proposal. I used to be a customer of SBC/Yahoo, a much larger ISP akin to BellSouth, but I became fed up with the quality of their service and customer support. Were it not for competing ISPs like Sonic.net, I would have no choice but to accept the inferior grade service that SBC/Yahoo was providing.

But fortunately, due to the FCC's continued oversight and regulation of broadband services, SBC/Yahoo is forced to open up their lines and let in other competitors like Sonic. And for that I am extremely happy. I have seen the effects of this regulation, and I can tell you that it is a positive force in the market. As of late I have seen SBC try to drop its prices to match its competitors and I have noticed that they have tried to improve their customer support. Neither of these was an important issue for them until they started getting serious competition.

Please see BellSouth's petition for what it is -- A monopoly pleading for absolute control of the market -- and give it a hearty THUMBS DOWN!